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28 February 1978

STAT
MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

OLC/C&R

FROM: [REDACTED]

C/PCS/NAR

SUBJECT: GAO Report on Drug Control Efforts
in South America

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1. The proposed GAO report on "Drug Control Efforts in South America....." has been reviewed by PCS/NAR and LA Division officers and we have no major problems with the (unclassified) text.
 2. The report emphasizes the paucity of usable tactical narcotics intelligence information and the lack of analysis of the information that is collected. The report gives the impression that DEA and CIA share equal responsibility for the collection of tactical narcotics information. This is not the case. CIA, as I explained to the GAO prior to the field investigation, emphasizes the collection of strategic intelligence information, e.g. trends, sources of supply, corruption, etc., and collects and reports tactical information generally as a by-product of our operations which are designed to gather information of use in the formulation of narcotics control policies. A sentence or two clarifying the CIA role would help place the GAO review in proper perspective.
 3. With regard to the lack of analysis of narcotics information, CIA and DEA are currently working on a joint effort in Washington to produce a series of in-depth profiles on major cocaine trafficking networks. The first of these studies, done on prominent nets operating in Peru and Colombia, have been sent to the field. I believe that mention of this project would again give the GAO a more balanced estimate of the overall effort.

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4. Some of the cocaine estimates cited in the GAO report (page ii of the Digest and page 10 of the report itself) either leave too wide a range or are seemingly inaccurate. I would suggest that the GAO contact the Office of Drug Abuse Policy which pulled together in December 1977 estimates of cocaine and heroin consumption and production that are probably the best available estimates the U.S.G. has to work with.

5. A minor point, but I believe that on page 16, line two, the word "collated" should be used rather than "collected."



Attachment: Subject Report

cc: C/PCS

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